

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL PERTH

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USIAC

EO 11652: NA

SUBJ: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

ATMOSPHERICS -

THE ARRIVAL OF CODEL HOLLINGS ABRUPTLY ALTERED THE USUAL SUMMER DOLDRUMS AND PROVIDED THE PRESS AND AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT WITH A MEATY BONE TO CHEW ON.

MEDIA INTEREST PRECEEDING THE VISIT WAS HIGH - PARTICULARLY COUPLED WITH THE IMPENDING VISITS OF TWO DELEGATIONS FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - WITH NUMEROUS REQUESTS FOR PRESS, RADIO AND TV INTERVIEWS.

GROUP MET WITH PRIME MINISTER FRASER IN TWO SESSIONS, WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER, WITH DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OFFICIALS AND THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION IN PARLIAMENT, FORMER PRIME MINISTER GOUGH WHITLAM.

IN A WELL-ATTENDED PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER MEETINGS WITH PM AND FOREIGN MINISTERS, FOUR SENATORS HIT WITH A BARRAGE OF WIDE RANGING ISSUES, MOST OF WHICH FOCUSSED ON THE INDIAN OCEAN AND DIEGO GARCIA ISSUE, AND DETENTE. OTHER ISSUES COVERED WERE STATUS OF NEW AMERICAN AMBASSADOR

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TO AUSTRALIA, FOREIGN INVESTMENT, AUSTRALIAN WOOL AND

BEEF EXPORTS TO THE U.S., THE CIA, AMERICAN DOMESTIC POLITICS, AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS, PORTUGUESE TIMOR, THE GENERAL TOPIC OF AUSTRALIAN DEFENSE AND FOREIGN POLICIES. THE SENATORS CAME OVER EXTREMELY WELL IN THE PRESS CONFERENCE, AND SENATOR HOLLINGS GAVE A FIVE-MINUTE EXCLUSIVE TV INTERVIEW FOR NATIONAL NETWORK CONSUMPTION.

NATION RADIO DEVOTED LONG SEGMENT OF PRIME TIME AM BROADCAST TO VISIT AND PLANS MORE WHEN GROUP VISITS SYDNEY. REPORTS FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE INDICATED THE GOA WAS EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH THE VISIT, AND PRIVATE INDICATIONS FROM THE CODEL REVEALED HIGH PRAISE FOR FRASER AND THE FOREIGN MINISTERS.

THE SENATORIAL VISIT ALSO PROVIDED A WELCOME RELIEF FROM A STEADY DOSE OF PORTUGUESE TIMOR AND ANGOLA AS THE MAIN FEATURES OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS IN THE PRESS. THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT IS TAKING A HEAVY POUNDING FROM THE AUSTRALIAN PRESS, EDITORIALY AND IN THE NEWS COLUMNS. EVENTS IN ANGOLA ARE RECEIVING PROMINENT PLAY.

PROGRAM

THE VISIT OF AMERICAN COMPOSER GEORGE CRUMB HAS BEEN FINALIZED FOR ADELAIDE ARTS FESTIVAL WHICH NOW OFFERS AN IMPRESSIVE ARRAY OF AMERICAN ARTISTS AT THE PRESTIGIOUS EVEN. THE LIST INCLUDED IN ADDITION TO CRUMB, MERCE CUNNINGHAM, MARILYN AND ROBERT WOOD, KURT VONNEGUT, SUSAN SONTAG, CONTEMPORARY CHAMBER ENSEMBLE, TENNESSEE WILLIAMS, ETC. A FURTHER DEVELOPMENT IN VTR USAGE WAS PROMOTED WHEN THE DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC AND DEFENCE STUDIES CENTRE AT THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY WAS INVITED TO THE EMBASSY FOR LUNCH AND TREATED TO, IN ADDITION TO A HOT MEAL, A SHOWING OF THE SCALAPINO VTR. HE LEFT WITH THE POST'S CATALOGUE OF VTR'S AND PROMISED TO INVESTIGATE PLACEMENT OF OUR VTR'S IN DEPARTMENT OTHER THAN HIS OWN. HE IS ALSO A SENIOR FELLOW OF THE INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS WHICH IS ASKING FOR ASSISTANCE FOR ITS ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN AUGUST. DETAILS OF CONFERENCE AND ASSISTANCE REQUESTED WILL BE SENT SEPARATELY.

MOUNT

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